

Award Gold Medal in recognition of his exemplary contributions to New Jersey and beyond. I extend to him my very best wishes.

HONORING THE BOY SCOUTS OF IOWA

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and friends, fellow Scouts of the four young men—Josh Fennen, 13, Sam Thomsen, 13, and Ben Petrzilka, 14, from Omaha, Nebraska, and Aaron Eilerts, 13, from Eagle Grove, Iowa—who were killed on June 11, 2008, when a tornado hit their campsite in western Iowa.

As an Eagle Scout myself, I am saddened, but also very proud of the young men in Iowa, and their poise and strength in the face of one of Mother Nature's most ferocious storms. These young men lived up to our pledge which says:

On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake, and morally straight.

The tornado destroyed the four cabins of the 1,800-acre camp and ripped up tents. However, in the critical moments caused by the disaster and through the rubble, these brave men exemplified our motto of being prepared when they immediately set up triage operations to assist and, most likely, save the lives of other young men who were in grave danger.

As a Member who represents an area of the country which, unfortunately, experiences more than its share of hurricanes and tornados, I know all too well the devastation severe weather causes. And, as a Scout, having participated in camping experiences similar to the Iowa Scouts' experience, I know and appreciate the challenges those young men faced.

So today, I ask that you join me in taking this opportunity to recognize the four heroes lost that day.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR CAPTAIN JENNIFER HARRIS, USMC

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Marine Captain Jennifer Harris, who was killed in a CH-46 crash outside of Baghdad on February 7, 2007.

Captain Harris embodied many of the great traits our men and women are displaying both at home and abroad in three theaters of war. Captain Harris was dedicated to her Nation, her Corps, and to the Iraqi people.

Captain Harris was a member of the United States Naval Academy's class of 2000 and graduated with an honors degree in political science and a minor in Spanish. She was a

graduate of the Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Instructor course in Yuma, Arizona. Accordingly, she served as a primary tactics instructor for her squadron, HMM-364. As the pilot training officer and lead instructor pilot, she was responsible for training new copilots and evaluating seasoned pilots for advanced designations.

Captain Harris was one of only four Marine officers selected by the Office of the Secretary of Defense to represent the U.S. Marine Corps in the 2007 Senate Youth Program. She was to participate in the program after her return from her last deployment to Iraq.

At the time of her death, Captain Harris was serving with HMM-364 as a CH-46 helicopter pilot in the Al Anbar province of Iraq, performing assault support, casualty evacuation, and combat raid missions. She gave her life so that the Iraqi people might have an opportunity for a better life. This was her third combat deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, including the initial invasion operation from February to October 2003.

I want to extend my heartfelt condolences to Captain Jennifer Harris's family and hope that they are able to find comfort in the knowledge that Captain Harris's countless selfless acts, including her ultimate selfless act, helped to provide opportunity for the people of Iraq.

HONORING THE WEST GENESEE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS LACROSSE TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the West Genesee High School boys lacrosse team, 2008 Class A New York State Champions. With their 11-7 victory over Syosset High School on June 14, 2008 the West Genesee Wildcats won their 15th New York state title.

The road to the title was not an easy one for the West Genesee Wildcats. With an injury riddled line up the team had a bumpy start that included 3 losses and a drop to 17th in the state rankings. Many were skeptical that the Wildcats could reach the level of success that previous school teams had achieved, but the players and coaches set out to prove the skeptics wrong and ended the season on a 12 game win streak. West Genesee finished an outstanding season with an impressive record of 21-3 and their 15th state championship is the most titles won by a New York state high school team in anyone sport.

On behalf of the people of the 25th District of New York, I congratulate Athletic Director Anthony Pascale, Head Coach Mike Messere, Assistant Coach Bob Deegan, and the players of the West Genesee High School boys lacrosse team: 2—Shane Martin, 3—Mike Fetterly, 4—Dylan Sabene, 5—Ryan McConnell, 6—Kevin Grome, 7—Jim Marks, 8—Tim Besio, 9—Matt McCabe, 10—Henry Luke Cometti, 11—Owen Alberts, 12—Mike Simiele, 13—Eric Mazzoni, 14—Garrett Ryan, 15—Joe Fazio, 16—Dylan Parker, 17—Jordan Rogers, 18—Eric Miccio, 19—Jaron Davie, 20—Ryan Barber, 21—John Glesener, 22—Ike Hopper, 23—Conor Regin, 24—PJ Hart, 25—Jack Conboy, 26—Ben Waldron, 27—Jack Ken-

nedy, 28—Joe Fletcher, 29—Dan Stapleton, 30—Evan Mazzoni, 31—Steve Mahle, 32—Chris Burns, 33—Matt Lebduka, 34—Andrew Luczka, 35—Alex Iannicello, and 36—Chris Schneider.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, due to external circumstances, I was unable to promptly return to House Chambers and I missed the following vote on Thursday, June 19, 2008. I would have voted as follows: H.R. 2764, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008, rollcall vote 431, Agreeing to Senate Amendment to House Amendment No.1: "no."

I would have voted "no" on this amendment which provides \$165.4 billion in funding for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan because this amendment contained no benchmarks or timelines for redeploying our troops out of Iraq responsibly, safe, and soon.

MELANIE ROACH: INSPIRATIONAL OLYMPIAN

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in order to congratulate my constituent, Melanie Roach, for her resiliency while earning a place on the United States weightlifting team for the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing. Her story is a wonderful example of the power of the human spirit and she will no doubt represent her family, community and country well throughout the entire 17-day competition.

Before qualifying for the games this summer, Melanie was on the verge of making her way to Sydney, Australia for the 2000 Olympic Games when an injury shattered her Olympic aspirations. Instead of wallowing in self-pity, Melanie threw herself into the role of mother to her three children, supportive spouse to her husband, a State legislator in Washington, and started a business. However, she could not shake the desire to compete athletically and worked tirelessly to get back to an Olympic level and compete with the best lifters in the world.

She is one of only four women to qualify for the team and at 33 years old, she is the oldest member of the U.S. weightlifting team, and yet the youngest at heart. She will travel to Beijing prior to the August 8, 2008, opening ceremonies and will bring the pride of her family and friends, her community and the State of Washington, and all the people of the United States of America. Melanie is an inspiration to all and I wish her the best in Beijing and safety in her travels.